



Golden Showcase

Volume 12 Issue 4

October ~ November ~ December 2008

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Thank You

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President's Message *with Joe Cruz*

Before you knew it the California State Fair has come and gone. There was a lot of activity from the Friends throughout the fairgrounds. Some of the areas that we covered are the California Building, Expo Center, 9/11 Memorial, FOF Snack Shack in Expo 2, Coke Booth, the Farm, and our new booth at Ranch Land.

First I'd like to thank Anne Jones for operating our new booth at Ranch Land where ice cream and snacks were sold. Also I would like to thank Carla Knee for the beautiful quilt which she made for the Friends. And also to all of you for all the tireless hours that you gave in making the California State Fair a big success.

As you read your newsletter you will see the end of the year coming upon us as we plan the final activities. In October we will have the volunteer luncheon. In November we will have our second General Membership Meeting where we will be taking nominations for three open board seats. I hope to see a lot of our membership at this meeting. And then in December we will be having our holiday party.

Now don't forget to read your newsletter as it will have important dates to remember. From myself and your board, thank you for all your help.

Joe

Thank You *with Harry Moos*

Hi Everyone! Well...YOU WERE WONDERFUL! It was a great State Fair and all of you were, as always, the true stars!

Each and every one of you were amazing, whether you were sweating it out in the Farm or the Coke Booth or the 9/11 Memorial or Ranchland Snack Shack or being overwhelmed working with "tastings" and handing out avocados or olive oils as fast as you can!

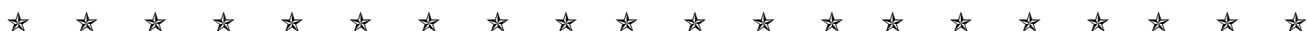
The group that held the Expo Center or California Building together did a marvelous job during the busiest of days as well as the quiet evenings. Those of you that sold raffle tickets for the quilt did great as the quilt was a big hit this year (Thank you, Carla and Sharon!) and we sold the last of the cookbooks

We had a few new areas to work this year as well as many new members to show the ropes. We discovered that a few of our processes need tweaking (orientation, checking in for shifts, etc), but for the most part it was a huge success.

Now that the Fair is over we looking forward to the 2009 board appointments at the November General Membership Meeting and our annual Holiday Party. Also, don't forget this years Appreciation BBQ that Cal Expo is hosting on October 31. (See all the needed information on the back page.)

See you soon!

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Lots of Stuff *with Anne Jones*

Hi Everyone! What a great 18 days! I hope you all enjoyed this year's Fair as much as I did! It was truly a wonderful Fair with the many family oriented and free activities as well as the normal fascinating foods, vendors, displays, etc. Cal Expo did an outstanding job putting this Fair together.

Then there were the Friends of the California State Fair...you were fantastic! The times I made the rounds and spoke with everyone I was so pleased to see so many of you helping everyone with a smile on your face and doing your best to help all the many Fair guests no matter how ordinary or odd their request. Pat yourself on the back...you were totally awesome!

Ranchland Snack Shack

A few of you made it down to the Ranchland area to see our new Ranchland Snack Shack; it was great fun. The public didn't know we were there, but discovered us a little more every day. This year we were open until 4 pm on Tuesdays (Kid's Day), Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day; we opened at either 10 am or 12 noon. We started out with the same foods as the Snack Shack in Expo Center and, of course, ice cream; the yummy premade ice cream cones from Leatherby's! The word spread during the Fair about our ice cream cones and by Labor Day we had people waiting for us to open in the morning! It was a learning experience and we already have great plans for next year.

Appreciation BBQ

The annual Appreciation BBQ for Cal Expo staff and volunteers will be on Friday, October 31. It will be held at the lower Grandstand at 11:30 am. Please RSVP to me at 916 716-8823 or aamj1@comcast.net. You do not need to be in uniform.

Aprons

And speaking of uniforms...how did the aprons work? I thought everyone looked wonderful, but I'm pretty biased. I'd love to hear your thoughts. And please remember, when you are representing us in public, always wear your apron unless told otherwise.



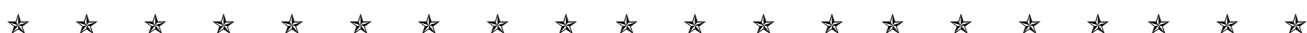
Awards

Every year we may award up to 10 people for a job well done; the Star Awards. If there is any member of our organization that you feel deserves an acknowledgement feel free to nominate them. They must be submitted by November 4 and may be either emailed to me at: aamj1@comcast.net or sent to me at the return address on this newsletter. All nominations received will be considered and are confidential within the Board. The Star Awards are presented at the Holiday Party (December 9). The President's Award is an award that may be given every year and is selected by the President and Vice President.

November General Membership Meeting & Board Appointments

As always we will have an open meeting with snacks and animated discussion on Tuesday, November 11 at 6 pm. The FOF Board appointments take place and if anyone is interested, please contact any of the Executive Board (Joe, Mark, Romaine, Harry or me)





before that day. The three members whose terms are ending are Mark Kramer, Carla Knee and I; all three of us are throwing our hats in the ring for another 3 years.

Holiday Party

The annual Holiday Party will be held at 6 pm, December 9, at the newly renovated Turf Club. As always, the evening will be a wonderful dinner presented by Ovations, awards will be presented, the 2009 Board will be introduced, there will be a no-host bar available to all, and it will be Big Fun! *It is free to FOF members who have a reservation, and \$30 to everyone else.* Please RSVP to me (916 716-8823) before December 1.

FOF Cookbooks

Well, the one and only Friends of the California State Fair Cookbook is sold out, but Joyce Evans came up with a great idea. We are going to offer a collection of recipes that may be inserted right into the previously purchased cookbook. Joyce is going to spearhead the project and hopefully we'll have a packet of great recipes for next year. Please contact Joyce if you have a recipe to submit or want to see

how she is going to go forward with this fun project. Her email is: jevans468@surewest.net. Her phone number is 916 729-6791.

Quilt

Was this year's quilt amazing or what! A record number of tickets were sold this year and it had to be because the quilt was so great. This was Carla Knee's 6th FOF quilt and this year she also had the help of Sharon Moos; Sharon did the quilting to make it even more special. This year's quilt was won by Vicky Lang of Mill Valley. When I called Vicky with the news that her ticket had been drawn, she was thrilled!

RSVP – Please read.

The past few years we have requested a RSVP for any event where food is served as we need to give a headcount to Ovations a full week before the event. A couple year's ago we actually ran out of food at a dinner because so many members showed up and had not phoned with a RSVP; last year's Holiday Party there was 23 members present that did not have reservations. At this year's Orientation, we had 30+ people that had either called in the last 24 hours or didn't call at all. PLEASE call within the allotted time.



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The Snack Shack 2008 *with Mark Kramer*

Thanks to Cal Expo for doing a beautiful job designing Expo Building 2; the Snack Shack had a very nice, large booth this year. The mix of products were about the same, providing milk, juices, water, almonds, honey straws, carrots, and string cheese. We also tried two new products, Vitamin-Water and Fuze, which did fairly well. While we still battled all the other activities in the building, overall the Snack Shack did well and we had a great time.

Another project we had this year was sampling California State produce. This included avocados, pears, raisins, olives, and olive oils. We did this from the Snack Shack four times every day at 12 noon, 2, 4, and 7 pm. It was an interesting exercise working around the very active kitchen area, preparing perishables so they looked fresh, and serving hundreds of Fair goers. Thanks to all those who helped with this project.

Another new venture this year was the Snack Shack 2 in Ranchland. Cal Expo asked us to bring back ice cream to the "Crystal" gazebo. With the support of Leatherby's supplying us with pre-made cones, and stocking most of the

items sold at the other Snack Shack we were in business. Through a great effort by Anne Jones, Carla Knee and our volunteers, they sold nearly 800 ice cream cones despite the limited hours they were open. We are looking forward to the 2009 Fair when we can use what we learned this year to have an even better Snack Shack 2 as well as a bigger and better Snack Shack 1. Thanks to everyone that showed up for their shifts on time and those who put in an extra effort filling in at the last minute for those who could not make theirs. This was a great year for the Friends and I look forward to even more "Big Fun" next year.



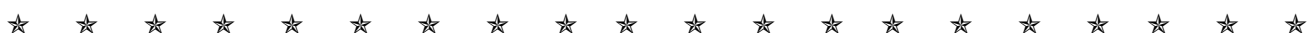
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2008 Friends of the California State Fair Board

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2009 California State Fair ~ *date tba*



The Fun Never Ends *with Pam Howard*

This time of year is kind of a letdown after all the months of anticipation and preparation. I met old friends regularly and got to know some wonderful new friends. I miss you already! We spent hours and days focused on one project or another, and now it's over and I feel sad to not see my Fair Family every day. Actually writing this has brought back many happy memories of time spent with you all. I want to thank you for giving so much of your valuable time and effort to the State Fair cause. It has been really fun this past year arranging those mailings, entry receipts and judgments, Farm Tours, and who can forget all that food we moved, catalogued, rearranged, and displayed!

I may be calling people (you know I will) to volunteer to herd children for the Fall Farm Tours as soon as Teresa gives me the word. From past years, we have developed scripts to help people stay on message for the farm, so fear of new areas is no longer an option. The children are bright and fun. This last season I was at a Monarch's game and an 8 year old girl pulled on my shirt. I looked at her and said "Hi". "I know you." She said. "You were at the Farm." We had a wonderful conversation right there. It made my heart swell that I had perhaps made a difference in that little girl's life. That's what life is all about, isn't it, when the tallying is done, did you make a difference? So, join me in applauding what we do as individuals and as an organization, with aplomb and dedication, each and every day.

Before I leave, I want to shout out a hearty "Thank You" to all of the brave souls who assisted in this year's food competitions. We and staff anguished each day there was a competition whether or not it would go smoothly. Everyone pitched in and made the food competitions a big success. Each day of competition had its own high and low points.

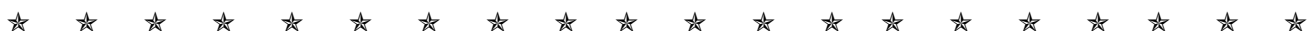
From new taste sensations to disqualified entries, there's plenty of excitement to be found. The judges range from professional chefs, each with their own unique specialty, to published Master Food Preservers with many years of top awards in food competitions. All judges have attended classes on how to judge. Armed with a copy of the entry rules, they try their best to survive the sugar highs in order to evaluate and judge each entry on its own merits.

As an enthusiastic food enjoyer, I am always fascinated with different foods and their respective presentations. The competitions are a most wonderful opportunity to meet and converse with food professionals and pick their brains on the finer points of baking and cooking, and to share old recipes or try new ones. So try this award winning cookie recipe complements of our own Joyce LaForm, and think about entering one of next year's California State Fair Food Competitions.

Ginger Snap Drop Cookies

¾ cup Crisco
2 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon ginger
1 egg
2 teaspoon baking soda
¼ cup molasses
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Cream Crisco, sugar, molasses and egg. Add dry ingredients. Mix until smooth. Form small balls and roll in bowl in which you placed 2 Tbs of sugar. Place cookie balls on a greased cookie sheet at 2 inch intervals. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.



Mark Your Calendar

Cal Expo Annual Appreciation BBQ

Friday, October 31, 2008
RSVP Anne 916 716-8823

November General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 11 – 6 pm
Admin Bldg – Please enter side door

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
RSVP Anne 916 716-8823



Friends of the California State Fair ★
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